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FOSSIL METEORITE.—A new meteorite has just been discovered in the Miocene deposits of Greenland, and brought to England. It has been offered, we understand, to the Trustees of the British Museum for the sum of 240*l*. This is the first instance on record of a truly fossil meteorite having been met with. — *The Academy*.

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### ANTHROPOLOGY.

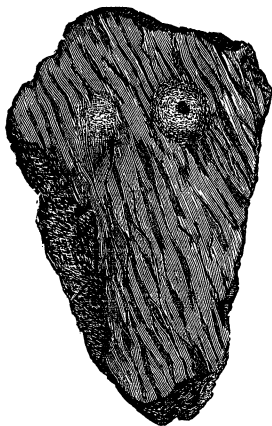
DID MAN EXIST IN THE TERTIARY AGE?—The evidence adduced by M. Bourgeois of the discovery of flint flakes and scrapers in the Miocene strata of Thenay, along with remains of the hornless rhinoceros and mastodon, proves, according to M. Hamy, that man was an inhabitant of Miocene Europe. It is, however, rejected by most of the French and English savants, because M. Burgeois has not shown that the implements in question may not have been derived ultimately from the surface of the ground, where they are very abundant. While M. Hamy acknowledges this to be the case, he does not see its full bearing on the value of the testimony. The implements are probably of a Quaternary, or even of post-quaternary age, and certainly cannot be considered decisive of the sojourn of man in Europe during the Miocene epoch, although the climate at the time was almost tropical, and the conditions of life easy. Nor can the evidence of the grooved bones of *Halither*, found by M. Delaunay at Puançè in Maine-et-Loire, be accepted, because it cannot be proved that the grooves may not have been caused by some other agency than that of man. The proof of the existence of man in Europe during the Pliocene epoch derived from the striæ in the fossil bones found at Saint Prest, and in the valley of the Arno, accepted by M. Hamy, is equally unsatisfactory. The flint “arrow-head” and other rude fragments said to have been obtained at the former place from the same horizon as the bones of *Elephas meridionalis*, by M. Burgeois, the stout champion of Miocene man, do not afford the precise and exact testimony which is demanded for the establishment of the case.

The presence, indeed, of man in Europe in the Miocene and Pliocene epoch is as yet non-proven, and we must be content to await future discoveries. The results of the labors of archæologists and geologists throughout Europe during the last ten years has not placed the advent of man further back than the river

gravels of the Somme, and the epoch of the caves, both of which are post-glacial or post-pliocene, or quaternary, in other words, posterior to the great submergence and refrigeration of Northern Europe, through which many of the Pliocene mammalia were destroyed. — W. BOYD DAWKINS, in *Nature*.

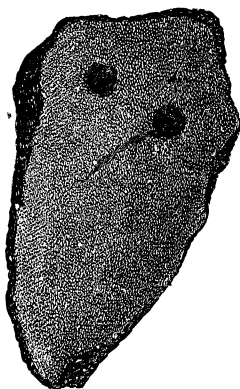
MOUNDS NEAR PRINCETON, ILLINOIS. — In January, 1870, through the kindness of P. D. Winship, Esq., I visited a place about three and a half miles south-east of Princeton, Illinois, where there are several small mounds, one or two of which Mr. Winship and others had previously opened. These mounds are very low, and are situated along an old terrace, which is perhaps sixty or seventy feet above the bed of a small stream. In one of these mounds human skeletons were found in a sitting posture, but the bones so readily crumbled that only portions could be preserved. They

Fig. 21.



Indian pottery, outside.

Fig. 22.



Indian pottery, inside.

showed, however, that in this mound there were buried at least one man and one woman. Two small stone implements, somewhat like Indian axes in shape, were found with the skeletons. These axe-shaped tools appear to be greenstone, and are similar to those found in ordinary Indian burial places.

About forty or fifty feet from the low mound from which the skeletons and axe-like implements were taken, a slight excavation was made, from which Mr. Winship and those with him took the piece of pottery figured in the accompanying wood-cut (Figs. 21,

22). This piece of pottery is evidently made of clay and sand. It is comparatively smooth on the inside, but more or less regularly wrinkled or ridged on the outside, the ridges undoubtedly being intended for ornamentation. On the inside of the piece of pottery there are two holes, which appear as if punched with a round instrument while the pottery was yet in a plastic state; the round instrument was not forced clear through the substance, but so nearly through that the material was raised into a protuberance on the outside, just where each hole would have been had the instrument been forced through. One of these protuberances appears as if worn off, and thus an opening has been made from one side to the other; the opening on the outside, however, is very small, as seen by the figure.\* Two arrowheads, one of very fine jasper, and the other of coarse jasper, were found with the pottery.

About fifty rods farther down the stream, and on a much lower terrace, Mr. Winship called my attention to what he called a "race-course." It was apparently an old race-course, circular, and with a diameter of two hundred and fifty or three hundred feet; and the "track" is quite plain, being indicated by a well marked depression. That this is no modern affair is shown by the stump of a large oak which is standing right in the middle of the track, and which of course shows us that the tree of which it is a part grew from an acorn which germinated there since the track ceased to be used.—SANBORN TENNEY, *Williams College*.

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## NOTES.

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PROFESSOR AGASSIZ recently addressed the Massachusetts Legislative Committee on Public Education, on the present needs and future prospects of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He stated that the annual income amounts to a little over \$10,000. This was insufficient to pay the salaries of the corps of twenty-six assistants, and individuals had generously aided the institution by gifts of from \$1500, to \$6000. The total amounts of these contributions, including grants, was \$473,000. Its immediate neces-

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\* "Indian" pottery is often ornamented with circular impressions on the outside, probably made by a small hollow bone or reed, but this is the first instance that has come under my notice of the impression being made on the inside.—F. W. P.